

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 12, Number 5

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Travelogue Types From Lebanon

At the eastern tip of the Mediterranean, lies a narrow mountainous strip of land whose Semitic inhabitants, in Biblical times, formed the ancient Kingdom of Lebanon. These daring seafarers were always shrewd merchants who provided shipments of their majestic cedars to form the foundations of Solomon's Temple. In later centuries, conquered, they became a segment of the Ottoman Empire, then in more recent times were ceded to the French as a "protectorate". When France fell to the Nazis, the Lebanese, with the consent and aid of British and Free French troops and diplomats, set up a Republic which as of today, still maintains a precarious independence.

Since Lebanon and its northern neighbor, Syria, were united as one country for hundreds of years, no one could be better qualified to bring us authentic dolls depicting the people of this tiny land, than

Baronne Sandra Belling, who, as you long-time Kimport customers will recall, for years provided us with colorful and unusual Syrian dolls from her home in Damascus. Mme. Belling and her family were Russian refugees from the persecutions of the Communist regime who found sanctuary in Syria many years ago. Now their adopted country has come under the pro-Red influence and once again they were forced to flee, this time to Beirut, capital of Lebanon. During recent years of chaos and tragedy, we lost touch with her, but happily this internationally famous doll artist has not allowed personal troubles nor turbulent times to discourage her. Once again we are proud to be able to offer her new,

unique portrayals of the colorful Lebanese.

We have sketched the somberly clad "Hadji Cheikh" as he calls the faithful to prayer perhaps



from his place atop the minarets of the mosque. His green turban is a symbol of a successful pilgrimage to Mecca making him an object of veneration to the people who kiss his hands and the hem of his black robe in order that they, too, may be blessed from this holy place. He is every inch a Holy Man, from the multicolored prayer beads, firmly grasped in one hand, to his bearded patriarchal visage. Eight inch Priest, No. 284H, \$11.50.



From the mountainous northern region of Beit-el-Dine on the Syrian border, a district famous as the Land of Emirs, comes a village belle whose brilliant attire is native to both the Syrians and Lebanese. Done in distinctive Belling

style, with particular attention to the sculpted head, covered with stockinet, she wears rich satin trousers under her beaded and brocade skirt. Her "tarbouche" is covered with a vari-colored turban; a waist-long necklace fails to conceal her scantily clad bosom. The "kob-kabt" or clogs that she wears actually serve to lift her above the deep dust or mud of the village streets, but her natural love of decoration shows in the silver and gold "nail heads" stud-ding these sandals. A full brocade overskirt, bound with gold thread loops, completes her fascinating costume. This 8½ inch character doll is, No. 284C, \$13.50.

RE MUTUAL REGARD

Someway I feel like I'm gulping a fib when forced to say, "No, we've never met" some beloved doll enthusiast, perhaps you—or you! That is an inconsequential fact and not the blessed truth so many, many times, because of personal letters, our messages through Doll Talk and your delightful correspondence in return, your business confidence and purchases have laid a real foundation for both interest and affection. This mutual trust and rare relationship you may be sure has meant most satisfying happiness to all of us at Kimport.

The spark that just touched off these treasured thoughts was a letter from a quite new friend who was re-reading her first two copies of D.T. She, Ruth E. Meyer, writes:—"It is amazing how friendly most people in the doll world are and how willing to give of their knowledge. In Milwaukee I have met a lovely lady whose dolls

are in Johl's, 'Still More About Dolls', a Mrs. Jordan, 86 years young, whose eyes light up like a Christmas tree when she talks of her travels in the past, hunting for dolls. She is a gem and so gracious to any doll person."

"And I thought you might be interested to hear about happening to pass a branch library where dolls were displayed in a window. The following day I went in to take a good look. The librarian told me that several local women had offered to show dolls, furniture and accessories, so both children and adults might learn what the toys were years ago. I learned that several of the dolls were from Kimport as I called the owner of several of the loveliest old dolls. Nice? I think so."

Isn't it exhilarating to be generous and complimentary to boost instead of just sit tight! Of course, we do not publish personal words of appreciation very often, but you may be sure that we, like every individual in this world, do cherish commendation in our hearts. Let's never be stingy, snooty, belittling. "Where much is given, much is required," and, certain, we all have much!

ASSURING HER HERITAGE

Wesley Coffin has had perhaps more sheer fun in collecting than almost any doll customer on our lists. In her Alabama home on Riviere du Chien overlooking a bend in Dog River which empties right into Mobile Bay, a short way from the bend where pirates were wont to roam, she arranged one section of seafaring folk; our key-

sheet shows, staunch Captain Ahab, Tugboat Annie, Robinson Crusoe and Man Friday, surrounded by a made-on-order pirate dozen from fiction and history—Br-r-cut-throats all, from Long John Silver to Anne Bonney!

Mrs. Coffin loved the Grandma Ritchey hobos, an Uncle Remus group by Carolyn John, and other special character dolls that group together. As of now, she is on a want list for those exquisite little Uebel Germans—oh well, let's let Wesley C. take it from here.

"I have walked in and found your letter, so now I know what I want for Christmas—yes, all five of the ones you have laid aside for me. I do want you to know that my little two-year-old granddaughter adores those dolls. I keep them under glass in my secretary here in town, but one day she begged so hard for them that her mother opened the case and let her have just one to hold. Now, of course, every time she comes by she has to hold that particular doll in her little hands. She has never ruffled her up or damaged her in any way but carries her around most carefully. However, I still hold my breath; so the other afternoon when she arrived and I was to give her her lunch, she insisted on that precious doll standing on her high chair tray. I refused—she announced she did not want her lunch—I said, very well. She absolutely refused lunch without the doll; I refused to let her have it while eating so consequently the little doll lover went without her lunch! Ah, me, it looks like some day this is the one who will be getting her grandmother's doll collection."

LATE ARRIVALS

"Hadji Cheikh," the holy man, in his green turban and the Lebanese village belle would logically appear here, but they are so distinctive and colorful that we gave them front page, headline position. However, there are always more 'n more exciting new arrivals, or new shipments of tried and beloved old timers. We have the dolls. Our trouble is space in Doll Talk!



It has been several years since we last received a shipment of Czech dolls from Prague, but at last the Iron Curtain lifted slightly and we are happy again to offer sturdy 7" Libusa. Her child-

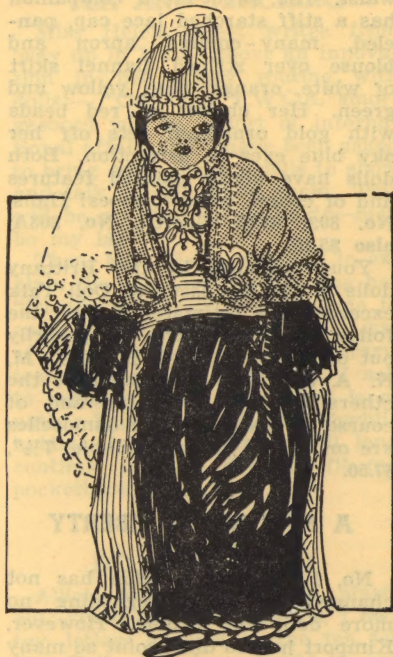
like face is neatly modeled in composition, mounted on a well-made, cloth-stitched body. Her costume must be a peasant's holiday finery since it features colorful laces and embroidered ribbons galore! Black boots are cloth, blue pleated short skirt is embellished with red, yellow, white and green. Her red print bodice has white puff sleeves and her close-fitting cap above yellow lace collar has three broad bands of ribbon and a bow in back. A hard-to-find addition to your collection from Czechoslovakia, No. 203D, just \$5.00.



The companion pair to the Roumanian dolls shown in Doll Talk last month come from the central

district of Transylvania. These hardy folk of Magyar descent, stand as sturdily on their round individual bases as their ancestors stood against the wave of Turkish conquest that threatened to engulf them. The dolls with neatly painted round wooden heads are built over a bendable frame; 6" size for the man and 5¼" for his wife. He wears a queer "beehive" shaped hat and real leather vest, stenciled to simulate multicolored embroidery. She has a sheer, ankle length headscarf and a rich looking wool lined leather coat, open in front to show off her stenciled and gold trimmed blouse and skirt. The man, No. 857, \$3.25; the woman, No. 857A, \$3.25.

Importing dolls holds many surprises,—the current shipment may or may not be just like the previous one; may be six months late arriving or perhaps not come at all! For example, we had ordered a repeat shipment of our Trans-Jordan Arab pair, which finally arrived several months overdue. Upon unpacking it, to our surprise, we found that while the man was the same robe and burnoose clad Hashimite we had previously offered, the woman was completely different. In fact, she is an exact duplicate of our Bethlehem Bride, also purchased in Jordan through a different source, but in the smaller 7½" size matching the Arab gentleman. Therefore, we now offer you Abdullah, man of Jordan, in colorful flowing robes of brown, red and yellow, plus black banded trailing white burnoose. No. 855, \$3.95. His new companion, Mina Ruth, is No. 855B, also \$3.95. She is garbed in the exotic bridal costume of this primitive country,



featuring rich handwork on bodice and vest, high conical red hat, encrusted with her dowry coins and prim white veil. Both dolls are cloth constructed with painted faces and individual detachable wooden bases.

Hans and Geertji of Holland, a 10½" pair of heavy, jointed composition dolls in traditional Volendam costume were so popular when first offered that we hastened to place a repeat order which has just arrived. He is dressed all in black, but a touch of color is added by his red and white shirt exposed at his throat and two large silver buttons at his

waist. His sweet-faced companion has a stiff starched lace cap, paneled, many-colored apron and blouse over striped flannel skirt of white, orange, blue, yellow and green. Her choker of red beads with gold ornament sets off her sky blue eyes to perfection. Both dolls have nicely painted features and of course wooden shoes! Hans, No. 303, \$5.75. Geertji, No. 303A, also \$5.75.

Your response to the Brittany dolls in the last issue of Doll Talk exceeded our estimate. In fact the following styles are temporarily out of stock: 511E, G, H, K, L, M, N. A very limited number of the others are still available and of course all sixteen petite damoselles are on order. Those available, 7½", \$7.50.

A FEW MORE LIBERTY DOLLS

No, Liberty of London has not changed its edict regarding no more dolls for export. However, Kimport had to disappoint so many of you when that limited stock of these fine collection pieces wouldn't take care of a fraction of the orders following the article, "Hail and Farewell, Beloved Liberty Dolls". Then came a letter from Mrs. Hart, well known doll authority and author, who had just completed research on her next book, "Dolls Tell the Story of England". In this process, she had purchased ninety portrait dolls from Liberty's to be used as illustrations of English royalty and historical personages, which she now consented to let us purchase. Some have already departed to collectors who had their names on our waiting list for a particular

doll. The others are available on a first come, first served basis. If interested in one or a group of these precious dolls, let us know and we will gladly describe a selection as close to your preference as possible. As always, these will be held ten days to avoid disappointment. No, Mrs. Hart's new book is not available yet, but Kimport will have it for sale when it is published.

FOREIGN DOLLS WIN FRIENDS

Of course Kimport, like an impartial parent, can't take sides. We never admit conflict between foreign and antique dolls. We love and sell them all! However, when we get a letter from such a long-time, experienced collector as Lola Scholl, we get new enthusiasm ourselves for the "foreigns" and remember that's how we started our business.

She says: "Even though I haven't been adding much to my collection, I'm still very interested. I haven't been doing much exhibiting of late years, but the foreign dolls have done their share, especially when we were building our new church in Chicago. I had an exhibit every two years for about 10 years and added much to our church funds, to say nothing of many other projects. . . . I think the general public is more interested in foreign dolls because you can do so much with them in the educational and display line. I found the men were especially interested. I know many times the wives had to drag them there, but when they saw the exhibit they were more enthused than the women."

MADemoiselle FROM PLOUGASTEL

The story of the Dolls of Brittany brought enthusiastic response and many orders, some for the entire group of sixteen. Here is one collector to whom they had a special appeal:

"Delighted to see the Brittany dolls, as I was stationed near Plougastel, while awaiting transportation home after War I. I was an army nurse. Please send me "Mari-Vonnig" the doll representing the Plougastel peninsula, and the book, "Dolls Tell the Story of Brittany". It is a fascinating country. . . . Do you have any dolls representing the men? I try to collect couples."—Miss Helen Scott, Calif.

Yes, there is "Maurice of Brittany", seven inches tall and definitely the beau elegante in his braid and button trimmed suit and classic Breton sailor with velvet streamers matching the material of jacket facing and cuffs. He is No. 516, \$6.50.

MORE EDUCATION

Mrs. Howard Tobias of Ohio recently ordered an Italian doll from Kimport. She writes: "You list this doll as being from Bolzano. Where is Bolzano? I didn't find it in my index to our Atlas, and don't know where to look. I like to place the location from which each of my dolls comes, so I can point it out on my map or globe." We like perfectionists, so checked back through our import files. The doll maker was from Bolzano, a province in Italy. Our error was in using a g instead of z. Hope this will help.

TEA AND TEACHING

Miss Helen Sweet writes from 'way up in Maine about an innovation in her comfy routine with dolls:—"Our next Y.W.C.A. smorgasbord will be a sort of international affair, and I have been asked to bring some foreign dolls to show and talk a little about them. This will be my first public party—may be my last!"

Then, Miss Helen went on to explain the satisfaction of having her "friends and their friends come to enjoy my foreign dolls, with a cup of tea. Girls from the library, teachers, etc., who drop in, I ask to register. This little book is another happy part of a worthwhile hobby. I hope Kimport will long continue to have dolls to fit my pocketbook."

DO HAVE A PILL

Alicia Fenton of Florida, starts out: "Dear Kimport Friends, I owe two letters as well as the fee for Doll Talk. My face should be red for not writing before, but I don't have the energy to send the blood to my face to make it red!"

Don't you believe that! Alicia's a girl with diversified talents and usually has pep for three! She has pumped many a shot of sawdust into limp and needy dolls, so odds are that there will be an intake of something stimulating for her own pale corpuscles.

Alicia did pass along this little compliment to Kimport: "I thank you all for being so good to me. You all have been real friends,—something that is not always usual when not living near by, and then not always so."



In the hundreds of old dolls who wend their way to Kimport, it's almost always a single file, one-of-a-kind caravan. But several inseparables have found their way in, concerning which, a P. Kipling,

"The finds we have found—ah, two by two,

You may pay for one by one!"

So here's a box of pairs we've been hoarding, to buy or to budget, but not to separate.

From Marseilles on the Mediterranean, there is a 12 inch woman and 11½ inch man with terra-cotta limbs, all original clothes and accessories. (Have snapshot). Her head is heavy pink bisque with blond modeled hair and blue enameled eyes. Wide frill brim bonnet of pleated lace, rather faded but interestingly fashioned fishwife costume; she carries a long handled net seine and a basket; there is a document which her owner sent, with notation of head markings, etc. No. A627, \$22.50.

Her lean, black-bearded companion has the ruddy complexion of natural terra-cotta and fascinatingly modeled features. There is a net with corks thrown over one shoulder; he carries two coils of rope and a ship's lantern—or maybe it's a square jug. A hearty character is he, from boots to so'wester! All original, such dolls were not expensive, but are now delightful collection additions. He is No. A629, \$20.00.

Small and really unusual is the 8-inch peddler pair with heads and hands carved from cork, a material we've never seen listed with the leather-cloth-papier-mache-wooden listings for peddler doll heads. Both have black bead eyes and he a strip of astrakan for beard and sideburns. The only thing left of their original wares is a group of bright red pot-holders sewed into her right hand. They are of billiard table felt, the same as her hooded cape. She has her delightful original bonnet and other original garments including linen apron of the same homespun quality as his smock (have small picture). In good condition, it would be a challenge to again fit them out to hawk their wares, the pair, No. A137, \$65.00.

'Can't be separated, pos-a-tively! "Paddy 'n' Fritz" are a clown-like pair of 8½ inch tall papier-mache and wooden jointed toys whose hands interlock, being cut from one length each for right and left arms. Their interestingly modeled and painted heads are in perfect condition and they're all strung up to do a balancing Jumping Jack act. Circa 1880, came to Kimport from France. No. A240, Spec. \$19.00.

Large, for Kewpies, 9½ inch original, old pair dressed as bride and groom. Marked O'Neill, perfect condition bisque and fair condition for the "bob tailed" wedding clothes. No. A677, \$27.50.

Such a homey, such an English looking pair are the 8½ inch cottager and his frumpy, cheery wife from—I wish we knew which English village. Their apple-cheeked papier-mache heads have stippled

line painting around their black hair lines and big round painted blue eyes. Wooden, mitten type hands, all original clothes, her triple tailed over-blouse being cut from the same tan twill as his jacket and trousers. Her skirt is a charming old gold and scarlet cotton, beautifully hand-sewn. (Have picture) No. A144, only \$25.00 for both.

Creche "Innkeeper and Wife" have superbly modeled terra-cotta heads, traditional hemp bound bodies and wooden limbs. She is in better condition, 14½ inches tall, with finely modeled legs and one outstretched hand perfect; thumb and one finger broken on other hand. Double chins, plump rolls at the cheek bones, a smiling mouth that reveals tongue and upper teeth; pierced ears and inset brown eyes; short terra-cotta curl tumbling out from under a red (modeled) cap. Her bodice opens low to expose quite an expanse of bosom. Clothes shabby of course, but in good condition.

Bald headed and also "earthy" looking is the wooden booted husband. One of his finely carved hands is perfect, the other is missing two fingers, but a folded old napkin or scarf could be draped over it. His coat is almost gone, but included is a proper length of old, old silk, with which to recover the original paper lining. (Have snapshot) Pair No. A439, \$65.00. That's \$45.00 and \$20.00 respectively.

In the Creche category, too, might be the small, wooden, Spanish Mary and Joseph, the dolls themselves are 3 inch size, but 4 inches in their pedestals. Coloring

is very lovely in the old paints—blues, soft yellow, dark green, red with white and the flesh tones. The forearms are missing, as these date perhaps around 1750; Choice polychrome pair having real beauty and dignity, No. A157, \$24.00.

The next very old pair which came to us from France are 18th century. Papier-mache, with a plaster overcoating under the flesh paint, not just shoulder-heads, but, like the early poupards, the head-and-shoulder top continues on down to the waist. This is a most intriguing pair, man with a long cylindrical drum, woman sitting and holding a wooden—we don't know what — cut-out tray with a fancy shaped top section, maybe an alms box. Their painted faces are in splendid condition considering their age; sapphire blue blob eyes painted with black pupil dot and many brush swirls at the hairline edge. Flat leather hands, intriguing old clothes, although we did have her exquisitely patterned chintz garments laundered and there was certainly no fading in the many clear, brilliant hues. Fourteen and fifteen inches tall, on wooden bases, to which their original Morocco leather shoes are nailed. (Have picture). No. A517, \$100.00.

"Siamese Twins", y' might say, anyway, this pair of dimpled baby-tot heads are joined cheek to cheek, with one common parian or fine bisque shoulder. The idea was just a pillow-like body to tuck in under a baby carriage robe as, yes, Bubby, and Sis have modeled boy and girl bonnets over their modeled boy and girl hair styles! 1¼ inches high—so-o their buggy should be 5 or 6 inches long for size. Circa 1880's, No. A527, Spec. \$18.50.

These "Two's" have been hoarded to present this way, just a couple more, and then a few babies (logical sequence!) Dating back to the mid-18th century is the odd-est matched pair, he in a wool wig, she in a cap. They are built into discs atop an 18th century Italian music box, hand turned with a china handle. These queer old "half dolls", whose seats and heads look like chestnuts, used to twirl more merrily perhaps, but they do still move. Ten inches by six and 3½ inches high. The very old print paper on it is a collector item itself; laces and fabrics seem original. No. A426, price, \$45.00.

The final little lady and gentleman belonging together are only 4½ inches tall. They were sent by an artist friend who lives in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Fragile, with handsomely modeled terra-cotta heads and limbs, little fingers have been broken, but they do have a charm and appeal one cannot resist. His silk coat is pure yellow, rose vest, deep blue trousers with gilt, and henna-rose boots. There is a scarlet ribbon modeled through her brown hair; green bodice and turquoise, soft rose and a bit of fine silver. The pair, No. A499P, are reduced to \$18.00.

Babies are being assembled for a special group by so many collectors that we may get good 'n' scolded for listing here what was on a want list, early Grace Story Putnam Bye-lo's for instance. But here are three of those very infants:

Nine inch, brown eyed, all original—although we re-covered a too grimy body, and one chubby celluloid hand isn't perfect; old store

dress with washed out label came on "Brownie Bub", but somebody at home crocheted his bonnet and sacque. No. A680, \$21.00.

Thirteen inch size; it is difficult to measure the height of a curly legged baby, so we'll also give head circumference, 10 inches. Sleeping eyes are misty blue and one toes in a little, like new born eyes sometimes do. Clean, muslin body, composition hands, plump with "starfish" fingers, pretty hand-made frock and of course marked "Grace Story Putnam". No. A669, \$27.50.

There was a larger size made, but our third old bisque Bye-lo is "bigger than either of my two babies"—so said the mother from whom we bought "Life-size." The head is 14 inches in circumference; blue eyes sleep; all perfect, with original, chubby, heavy celluloid hands. The body is made of flesh colored cotton pongee, evidently from Bye-lo pattern. Adorably dressed in long, lisle stockings, birdseye diaper, Rubens shirt, all real infant clothes and they do fit. Then, the dress and long petticoat are made from pure silk, a China silk, with matching lace and insertion on the dress yoke with lace ruffle or bertha all around it. No. A657, \$90.00.

Thirteen inch bisque and composition character baby—similar to one called Sammy; a mischievous looking tot with two upper teeth and the tongue modeled in just above his lower lip—cute! Three dimples, gray set-in eyes, red-brown wig, and ears set on as they often are in these fine German bisques. All original, nicely dressed; circa 1912. No. A671, \$28.00.

Ten and a half inch "Jutta", so

marked, is dated 1914 on the back of his Simon Halbig bisque head. Cunning, 3½ inch head it is, too, with sleeping gray-blue eyes, a wobbly little tongue, and two really small top teeth. Blond, bobbed wig, composition body, all original. Jutta's hand-made clothes are especially nice. No. A670, \$22.50.

There are other babies "crying" to get in, but we do want to brag about these Chase dolls who are pictured and space is an ever present problem y' know. Both are marked.



Twenty-inch Big Brother probably took that manly stance to show his age superiority over "Dinkey" who has to wear rompers yet! B.B. Chase has beautiful big brown eyes while sixteen-inch Brother's are blue as the checks in his romper. Both are in amazingly perfect condition, the freshest we have ever found. Brother in

suit and hat, No. A682, \$45.00. Little Brother in rompers, No. A681, \$42.00.

A PLAN WORTH DUPLICATING

The Biscayne Doll Study Club of Miami, Florida, Federated in March of last year, is sponsoring the first Junior Doll Club to be organized in the Miami area under the auspices of a Federated Club. Girls in the 8 to 15 age bracket are eligible for membership. The purpose of the Junior group is to teach these young doll lovers the importance of preserving their dolls, as well as the background and origins of the various types of dolls. Also, they will absorb something of history itself through the famous George and Martha Washington, the Mary Todd Lincoln, and other replicas of the First Ladies.

The organization of Junior Clubs is one of the most important aims of the United Federation of Doll Clubs, Inc., and books authored by the late beloved Janet Johl will play an important part in the Junior Biscayne Doll Club programs.

—Marian B. Howard,
Publicity Chairman

—SAYS MOTHER

We're buying a car on the bus fare we save,
And a home that saves rent—be it only a cave,
That super new freezer stops food wasting ills,
Our washer and dryer must end laundry bills.
So, saving so much on the needs we are buying,
Makes budgeting dolls one more venture worth trying.

—R.S.M.

MR. COGGY BULLOCK

In a very sympathetic letter from Mrs. Allie Vigneault of Arkansas, we have learned of the passing of Coggy Bullock. Many Kimport collectors have the whimsical peccan darcy made by this greatly handicapped artist in years past, and we are sad, too, that he will be creating his little figures no more. Mrs. Vigneault who was a personal friend wrote: "We got to visit Coggy in Shelby, for four days in September; a most enjoyable interlude. So we were sadly shocked to learn November 15th that he had passed away. It just doesn't seem possible! He was such a wonderful person."



Q. How should we address you—"Dear What?"

A. Personally, we are always pleased when Y'all pass that stage like in Poe's, "The Raven"—"Sir, or Madam, as the case may be." Dear Mr. or Mrs. McKim, or "Kim," who is Mr. Kim McKim—Dear Georgie, who is Mrs. Georgie Johnson, some of us are the ones, dear me, who open the mail. Dear Kimport covers the field; Dear Friends is wonderful!

Q. Has there been, or is there to be a second edition printing of Janet Johl's first book, "The Fascinating Story of Dolls"?

A. Nothing, so far, or even scheduled to date. A recent letter from former publisher to Kimport said it would have to be revised some, indexed, etc., and that no progress had been made along those lines since the death of Mrs. Johl.

Q. Do you consider doll heads—nice authentic old ones—as good buys? And if so, what does one do for a body?

A. Some collectors specialize in heads only. A shelf or cabinet of them does make a condensed showing of importance, and from a canny point of purchase, could be most apt to grow into money value.

We believe proper period type limbs, with correctly fashioned bodies are an acceptable solution. Good replica white parian or glazed china can sometimes be found of exact texture or tint. Pink bisque is a bit more tricky; pink "luster" fairly simple to duplicate by some ceramic artists. Hand-sewn, supple kid arms or carved wooden limbs may be made for different old dolls, papier-maches or other compositions.

DOLLS HELPING AGAIN

"The Junior Woman's Club is having a dinner honoring the State President and the theme is 'Know Your World.' My foreign dolls are going to be used in illustration of the theme." . . . That from a recent letter. "I find that people are quite interested in knowing where I get my dolls. It was a happy day for me when I heard of Kimport. . . . My friends are urging me to catalog my collection, for only I know the history.

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

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Independence, Mo.



VICTORIA ENTERS A DOLL MUSEUM

A Staffordshire Doll Tells Her Story

By Caroline B. Piercy

All those who knew and loved the late Caroline B. Piercy, and they were legion, will be interested in her delightful little book, published at Pageant Press in 1953. Doll collectors will find many helpful items, and young and old, who like a story, will be entertained.

In the words of the publisher: "The colorful reminiscences of a group of dolls living in a doll museum form the basis of this delightful and ingenious tale. Victoria, the delicate Staffordshire doll, was the cherished possession of three generations of Belgian children in Ohio. She listens to the tales of such dolls as homely little Sue, made by a father on the long, covered wagon journey to California during Gold Rush days; Millie-Margie-Maudie-Daisy-May McKee,

the doll with the long name and the exciting memories of the experiences she and her young owner shared in the pioneer west, and Rosamond, the sturdy and lovable rag doll."

"Victoria's story is particularly fascinating, with vivid descriptions of many dolls in the museum cases with her, such as the French Fashion Doll, antique Creche figures from Italy, and the knight in armor. Collectors will like, too, the nine, full page photographs showing various dolls in their beautiful, elaborate costumes."

It is an excellently printed First Edition of 64 pages, size 5½ by 8 inches, with stiff covers. Price postpaid, \$2.00.

FOR UN-LIMPING

"The flimsy felt which seems to be all one can get now can be stiffened with sugar and water—for hats, etc."

—Beatrice Griffiths, Mass.

RENEWALS ALWAYS APPRECIATED

Following is a typical letter received at Kimport: "Enclosed please find \$1.00 for a subscription to DOLL TALK. My subscription ran out and as we had illness in the family, I somehow did not renew it. I have missed it so much.

We know most of you want to keep your DOLL TALK coming regularly, and we do try to tell you whenever we write and notice your subscription is up. Now we are going to include a notice twice yearly or so in a mailing of DOLL TALK and if you are due to send a renewal, you'll know it promptly. O. K? Thanks!

MORE ABOUT DARROWS

Last Doll Talk we ran a little feature called DOLL PRIMER. This issue it's about "Chase Stockinet." It was our idea to continue along if enough collectors were interested. There have been many nice comments, and some valuable additions to our story.

We have all come to expect helpful letters from Ruth E. and R. C. Mathes. Sure enough they dug up this further data on leather dolls. "To supplement your story on the back page of the Jan.-Feb. Doll Talk, there is one other very early patent in which the exterior surface of the doll head was made of leather. It is patent No. 46,270, issued Feb. 7, 1865, to Lucretia E. Sallee. The patent is directed to backing up a flexible, durable surface, like leather, by a reinforcement of a plaster cement.

"Whether this doll was manufactured for the market we do not know. We have the original patent model which was filed in the Patent Office. The outer layer appears to be heavy kid which was given a final finish of paint to delineate the features. The complexion of this model is a bit uncertain as it has black hair, brown eyebrows and blue eyes!"

Also like the solution of a mystery, came an ancient doll-in-box and a letter from a western collector, Mrs. Edith Richardson: "After reading in the Jan.-Feb. Doll Talk, 'Would you recognize a Darrow?' I started rummaging through my dolls because I remembered an oval on the chest of a poor derelict with a split head that was sent to me by a friend who had found it in the attic of

an old house near Bloomington, Ill. There is nothing in the oval now, perhaps there never was, but in every other way this head fits your description of a Darrow. Her nose is a bit flat now, but through dirt and scars she looks as though she must have been a very handsome lady."

Sure she is a Darrow—unmistakable!

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"We had so many children visit us to see the dolls this Christmas. Grandma Ritchey's 'Johnny H.' made quite an impression. How remarkable, at her age, to have the talent, and enthusiasm for her work. Everyone inquires where we hear of these dolls, so would like to have you send Doll Talk to the two girls listed in this letter."

—Vera Spector, N. J.

"Please hurry my order of stands. I have been asked to show my dolls to members of the local D.A.R., soon, and want them to stand 'to attention'."

—Mrs. Albert Prince, Minn.

"The china head which you sent as a substitution in my last order has become a 'peddler' of sewing findings." —Thelma Ammons, Colo.

"If I were as rich as I wish to be I'd buy all Kimports from Grant to a Flea.

Added to "Kims" that now grace our home

'Twould be a collection ne're before shown."

—Mrs. B. K. Montgomery, Pa.

"Your letter, book and stands came just one hour apart. For fast action, I think Kimport heads the list!" —Mrs. P. Lambert, Calif.

"I suppose I shall always regret that I didn't buy Liberty's Queen Mary long ago! If ever there was a Patron Saint of Dolls' Houses, she was! —Gertrude Mahoney, Ill.

"Enjoyed meeting your representative at Strawbridge and Clothier's in Philadelphia. The dolls I purchased there have been greatly admired by everyone. The ones from Malaya are exceptionally beautiful." —Ida McCullough, Penn.

"I never suffered more as a child in wanting dolls than I have since I have been collecting them! I have always said I wouldn't budget, but that may well be the best way to get some of the better ones." —Mrs. Claude Arbogast, Ill.

"My own dolls are not valuable ones, for which I am glad. That means I can loan them to third and fourth graders to take to school, and I can exhibit groups in church school and let the youngsters handle them freely." —Ardelle Chase, Mass.

"My first acquaintance with Kimport was in 1940 at Bamberger's Newark store. I bought two dolls that day and have continued buying by mail from you ever since. Every doll, and Doll Talk, too, has been much enjoyed through the years." —Florence Hamilton, N. J.

"Enjoy your little paper full of big dreams and wish you many years of happy, successful hunting for us who must budget, and for you who must at times hate to part with the dear treasures you come across." —Winifred Burche, Mich.

"Little Vie is dressed now and quite charming. She's such a solemn little thing with a definite appeal." —Martha Cramer, Ohio

"I have never bought a doll through the mail, but am willing to take the chance with Kimport as my friend has had very good luck with you."

—Natalie Mirecki, Ill.

"The dolls arrived and I am delighted with all. I love the gay abandon of the Spanish pair and the Croatian girl is really a work of art." —Eleanor Keighton, Pa.

"The name Ilona in Hungarian means Helen, so I know I will be very happy with the one from Transylvania." —Helen Bales, Calif.

"Those precious old wax twins, circa 1840, have been named Abigail and Amanda, the two names of my Mayflower descending grandmother. This is a sort of commemoration, also, as she was born in the year 1840."

—Mary M. Blundell, Calif.

"Here's a homey pass-along idea for touching up a skinned spot on glazed china. I put the tiniest drop of colorless nail polish on the rough tip of china's nose, making it almost good as new."

—Leona Peterson, N. Y.

DOLL PRIMER: Ever Consider an old Chase Doll?

Rag dolls have always found tender mothering in the arms of little girls, and Martha Jenks treasured her "Izanah Walker" dearly. In New England, ninety years ago, life was not all play, and even dolls were a bit unyielding, like their little Puritan owners.

Years later, when happily married to Dr. Julian A. Chase, Martha still thought of a cuddly figure, and with a practical genius she developed the Chase Stockinet Doll. The enthusiasm of her own daughters and then their friends, stamped it a perfect success and by 1893 the demand for the new doll necessitated a little factory which was built in the back yard of the Chase home in Pawtucket, R. I.

In the first twenty years, toy dolls in considerable variety were made, ranging from 9" up. Geo. Washington, a traditional mammy doll, and characters from "Alice in Wonderland," Frog Footman, Dutchess, Mad Hatter, Tweedledum and Alice herself were popular.

The Chase family consistently used good materials and though the design and manufacture stressed softness of body and life-like features, they also knew children's ways, and built their dolls to stand rough handling. In fact they were almost indestructible!

Distinctive features are flexible limbs and separately formed fin-

gers and toes. The heads are especially life-like with raised and painted features, so sturdily reinforced beneath that the banging around for decades may have worn through the complexion of nose and face to show the threads of the fabric, yet no dents nor smashing.

Hospital teaching staffs soon saw the help that carefully proportioned manikins would be in training nurses, and Mrs. Chase met the need. Five Hospital Baby Sizes were made, from new-born to four years. There was also a full size figure 5' 4" with such anatomical exactness that practically all nursing procedures could be demonstrated.

Mrs. Chase died in 1925 but the business is carried on by her sons and daughters. The worn old dolls that have been loved and cuddled by early owners are most prized, and their type is so distinctive you can recognize them even though the labels have been lost or covered by redressing. No copyright was ever applied for, but a trademark was printed on the thigh or under the left arm. It is in the form of a round baby face with the words "Chase Stockinet Dolls."

Other types of dolls may have more asthetic appeal, but a time-weathered "Chase" evokes memories of happy little girls, perhaps your grandmothers, cuddling their very own "first babies"!



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